

## Obituaries

**Dr. J. G. Adami.** We are confident that every member of the profession not only throughout Canada, but throughout North America will learn with regret of the death of Professor Adami, formerly of McGill University, recently Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool. He died in a nursing home on the 29th of last month in the sixty-fifth year of his age. For the past two years his health had given cause for much anxiety to his friends and although an improvement had taken place last spring it was not maintained, and for some time past there had been little hope of his recovery.

He was educated in Manchester at Owens College and proceeded thence with a scholarship to Christ's College, Cambridge, and there took the Natural Science tripos and was the Darwin prizeman in his year. He then visited the more important schools on the continent, worked with Roux in Paris, and with Heidenhain in Breslau. Later he returned to Cambridge where he became demonstrator of pathology and was elected a fellow of Jesus College. There he carried out research work in comparative pathology under Michael Foster and Roy and established his reputation as a coming man. He was just thirty when he accepted the position of Strathcona Professor of Pathology and Bacteriology at McGill University, Montreal, and immediately made a name for himself by his clear and thorough methods of dealing in class room and laboratory with the then developing subject of pathology. He showed great keenness for his work and ready sympathy with all other workers whatever their grade with whom he came in contact.



DR. J. G. ADAMI

Adami was selected by Clifford Allbutt to write on the subject of inflammation in his *System of Medicine* and produced an article which was recognized as an outstanding feature for the commencement of that great compendium. A noted English teacher used to urge all his pupils to read Cohnheim, but wrote afterwards "Cohnheim is long and students are impatient" adding that, "it was better to press upon them Adami's article on inflammation for they would

find there, equally well and much more briefly, a description of how they should think about disease and obtain a proper outlook upon pathology."

Adami, however, more effectually made his reputation by his first volume on the *Principles of Pathology*, an early attempt to develop pathology as a science. The *Lancet* in a recent issue states that in Adami's old university Professor Dean has begun his first course in advanced pathology in the Natural Science school along the lines adumbrated by Adami, and at Montreal Adami's successor does not hesitate to weave Adami's classical philosophy into his pathological discourses. Adami's views were sound and in the end will prevail.\*

Four years later there appeared the *Text-Book of Pathology* by Adami, assisted by his then colleague John McCrae—a single volume which became rapidly popular, and has been issued in a revised and enlarged form.

During the war Adami served in the Canadian Army Medical Corps, was eventually made assistant director of medical services, and became the historical recorder of the medical services of the Canadian Expeditionary Force. His history, the first instalment of which appeared in 1918, was based as much upon the diaries of individual medical officers as upon official documents. The Corps were fortunate in their biographer for Adami while occasionally calling attention to defects in the official records, supplied in his *Story of the Canadian Army Medical Corps*, 1919, a most interesting historical account of many of the most important incidents in the war in which the Corps took a prominent place.

Adami received many academic distinctions. He was made an F.R.S. in 1905, F.R.C.P. London 1913, F.R.C.S. England in 1919, and was similarly honoured in Scotland. He was an honorary M.D. of three universities and an LL.D. of three others. He was a past president of the Association of American Physicians, and Fothergillian Medalist of the Medical Society of London. In Canada while he carried on his professional duties he found time to preside over many public associations for the general good. He was a prolific and valuable contributor all through his career to scientific journals and to the transactions of learned societies.

He was twice married, first to Mary, daughter of J. A. Cantlie, Esq. of Montreal, by whom he had three children, two of whom are still living, and secondly four years ago to Marie, daughter of the Revd. Thomas Wilkinson, vicar of Litherland, who survives him.

A PERSONAL APPRECIATION FROM DR. C. F. MARTIN  
DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

To those of his contemporaries at McGill University the loss of Dr. Adami will be a very personal one. Infrequent as were his visits in recent years, he was constantly in touch with many of his colleagues, and never ceased to take a vital interest in the Medical School.

It was not long after his arrival as a very young Professor of Pathology at this university that Adami showed an unusual capacity to inspire those about him with a zeal for work, an enthusiasm for research, and a very real desire to advance the interests of medical education. Those were happy days indeed for the small group who gathered about him in lecture room and

\* *Lancet*, Sept. 4, page 523.

laboratory. Fortunate, too, were those whose privilege it was to attend the Lister Club, organized by Adami and his associate, Wyatt Johnston. It was at these fortnightly meetings, to which were invited those who were enthusiastic about research, that he displayed his rare charm, and there were few scientific subjects introduced by the members upon which he was unable to speak with authority.

The Medical Society, the *Medical Journal*, and the Faculty itself soon showed the beneficial effect of the workings of his brilliant mind. Adami was present at every meeting with some new idea to help the general cause; his voluminous contributions to literature showed the diversity of his mind. Not only was he interested in his own special subject, but he was ever ready with suggestions which were of benefit to the cause of education, community welfare and general culture.

He was a prolific writer, and his facile pen, his easy style and his approach to every subject were comparable to that of Osler. While he made few original contributions to science he had the ability to give to the world a new light on many subjects hitherto ill understood. His monograph on *Inflammation* written shortly after his arrival in McGill was a classic, and his text-book on *General and Systematic Pathology*—written many years ago—still lives as a testimony to his genius as a compiler and exponent of medical lore.

#### A LETTER OF APPRECIATION FROM PROFESSOR A. G. NICHOLLS OF DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY, HALIFAX

To those of us who knew Professor Adami at all well, the news of his passing brought profound regret and a sense of deep personal loss. Coming to McGill in 1893, during his twenty years of professorship he cut his mark deep on the scientific and social life of the city and university. During a large part of this time the writer had the inestimable privilege of close association with him; first as pupil, and later as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology, and this contact, he is glad to confess, did much to mould his own subsequent career.

Adami's lectures were a revelation and delight in those early days; sufficiently learned, but delivered with a light, even piquant, touch, which did much to drive the lessons home. During his régime pathology and morbid anatomy were taught as they never had been taught before. A splendid pathological museum was built up. The medical student had, beyond question, the science of medicine ground into him in a very thorough manner. The institution of Research Fellowships in Pathology at McGill was due to Adami's wise initiative.

During his McGill period Adami could hardly be called a great research man. Indeed, his reputation in that particular was made before he came to Canada. His work on the physiology and pathology of the mammalian heart, undertaken with his teacher, Roy of Cambridge, remains a classic. He had, however, the valuable gift of enthusing others, and under his direction much useful work was done in his laboratories. His chief achievement in this direction was the development of the doctrine of "subinfection," which his studies and those of his associates did much to establish on a firm basis. The points that struck one most about Adami were, his wide reading, his powers of generalization, and his boundless energy. Without neglecting his academic duties, he found time to take a leading part in many of the social and philanthropic activities of Montreal—town planning, child-welfare, and the tuberculosis campaign, to mention only some. His points of contact were many. We might well apply to him the famous line "*Homo sum, nihil humanum a me alienum puto.*"

He never was too busy to give the helpful hand, or a word of encouragement.

Adami was always in demand as a lecturer on medical topics, and his Middleton-Goldsmith lectures on inflammation may be taken as a good example of his style and method.

Undoubtedly, his outstanding achievement was the production of his text-book, *Principles of Pathology*, in the preparation of which the writer had the good fortune to be closely associated with him. This work struck a new note in text-books of pathology. Getting away from the "regional," or "systemic" method of construction, it was based on the cell. Virchow's *Cellular Pathology* undoubtedly gave the key-note, but Adami's handling was original and developed in a way that had never been attempted before. In my judgment, his treatment of the problems of general pathology was scientific, logical, and coherent. It was left for him to create a "philosophy of disease," that was in harmony with modern progress, and that was satisfying. His classification of tumours was a brave attempt to replace the unsatisfactory ideas of the past by something better, to substitute an embryological basis for the prevalent topographical schemes. In reading this work one cannot fail to be struck with the author's wide grasp of his subject and his extensive acquaintance with its literature.

Of Adami as a man, I could write much. But many others also knew him well. Bright and genial in his manner, he was an ideal host. His home reflected to a degree his artistic sense. He had a hobby, as everyone should have. His was porcelain. His collection was choice, and his knowledge of this subject was deep. The impression he created was that of the scholar, who, at the same time, was the littérateur and man-of-the-world. His bonhomie was delightful.

#### AN APPRECIATION FROM PROFESSOR HORST OERTEL, OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Death has removed from the scientific world J. George Adami, the first Professor of Pathology at McGill University and during the last seven years of his life Vice-Chancellor of the University of Liverpool. Dr. Adami brought to the new chair of pathology at McGill distinction and recognition through a resourceful mind, enthusiastic industry and as an appealing writer. His lasting merit is to be found in a wider and broader approach and interpretation of pathological problems than is usual in the "school pathologist". He thus stepped beyond the common personal questions and interests of diseased life and made serious efforts to place them within the general biological field. His monograph on "*Inflammation*" and his book on the *General Principles of Pathology* are his outstanding contributions in this regard. When his enthusiasm and an occasional, and perhaps quite natural, lack of deeper penetration in particular lines at times invited criticism, it should be remembered that these had a perfectly legitimate basis in the desire to leave the narrow paths of traditional pathology, and to recognize it as a science which derives light from, but also reflects light upon, other sciences.

His manifold public activities, which unfortunately obliged him to dissipate some of his energies during his later years, arose also out of a laudable attempt to extend the experiences of the investigator of diseased life, from the narrow sphere of laboratory and sick room, to a more general public use and welfare. He displayed an extraordinary ability to embark upon new lines and to adapt himself to new and changing circumstances. His personal and social qualifications, and his spicy, well put lectures and addresses will not soon be forgotten by his students and by his associates.

**James Wilford Good, M.B., L.R.C.P. (Edin.), F.A.C.S.** An outstanding figure among medical men of western Canada passed away in the person of Dr. J. Wilford Good who died at Vancouver on September 1st and was buried at Brandon, Man. on September 7th.

Dr. Good came to Winnipeg in 1879 only a few years after the settlement had changed its name from Fort Garry. He was one of the original incorporators, in 1883, of the Manitoba Medical College, and succeeded the late Dr. James Kerr as Dean four years later.

He was for many years Professor of Surgery in that institution, now the Medical Faculty of the University of Manitoba, but he showed the originality of his mind by becoming the first medical man in the west to specialize, and chose for his field the diseases of the eye, ear, nose and throat. The late Dr. Gordon Bell was associated in practice with him for a time. All through the period of his residence in Winnipeg Dr. Good was a foremost figure in medical, educational and social circles.

Of a stirring and adventurous disposition he felt the lure of the Yukon in 1898 and left Winnipeg to practise in Dawson City for three or four years. The late Maj. Gen. Steele in his book, *Forty Years in Canada*, paid a compliment to Dr. Good as health officer which is worth quoting: "His duties were multifarious; there was much to be done. He was determined there should not be another epidemic of typhoid and none occurred. The doctor was everywhere; he inspected the water supply and the food,

broke out he volunteered for service in spite of advanced years. Not being immediately accepted he offered his services to the French Red Cross. In 1916 he was appointed as a specialist and served in England for some time.

Shortly after the close of the war he left Winnipeg to reside in Vancouver but never lost his interest in the place where he had played so large a part for forty years and which he had seen grow from a frontier town to the third city in Canada.

ROSS MITCHELL

The following appreciation of the late Dr. Good is from the pen of Dr. R. J. Blanchard, Emeritus Professor of Surgery in the University of Manitoba.

His death removes one who held a high place in the estimation of those medical contemporaries who shared with him the medical practice of the city of Winnipeg. He graduated from Trinity College, Toronto, in 1877 and after a course of study in Scotland began practice in this city in 1879. Although since the close of the war he resided in Vancouver, he was essentially a Winnipegger, and took an important part in the evolution of medical institutions in this city during forty years while it was increasing in population from seven thousand to two hundred thousand.

He was a strong man mentally and physically and devoted himself persistently to the acquirement of knowledge by critical observation, of cases in his own practice and by courses of study in the chief medical clinics of Europe. For this purpose he acquired a knowledge of the German language.

Dr. Good was distinguished from the conventional type by characteristics all his own. He was eccentric in his dislike of gratitude, or rather any expression of gratitude on the part of his patients and would ward it off by some brusque or humorous remark. All his emotions were camouflaged. A thoughtful temperament was concealed with current humour. One recalls how on many occasions he relieved the dull routine of faculty dinners of long ago.

His wit never failed but through it all, he rarely indulged in satire and then the point was usually against himself. One had to know him intimately to discover that he was deeply interested in problems which he rarely touched on in ordinary conversation.

It may be truly said that Dr. Good belonged to the best type of physician, the type who endeavour to perfect their knowledge of medicine and devote their time to the relief of suffering with little regard for financial rewards.



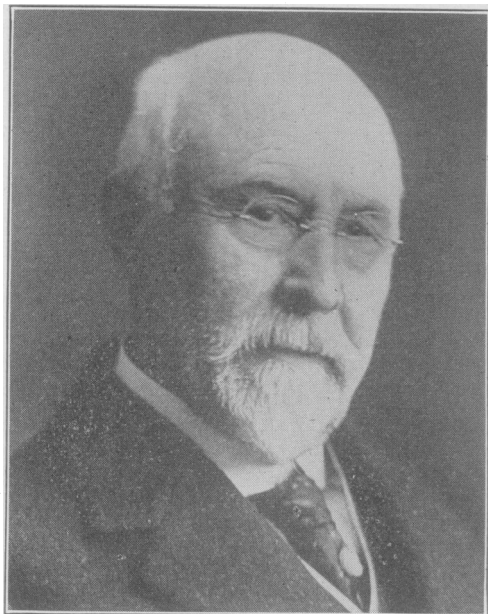
JAMES WILFORD GOOD, M.B.,  
L.R.C.P. (EDIN.), F.A.C.S.

and prosecuted those who were guilty of keeping supplies of inferior quality. As he said himself with the usual merry twinkle in his eye, "he led a useful and active life," which resulted in reducing the numbers of sick to one tenth of what they had been the previous year.'

When the gold rush was over he returned to Winnipeg, and resumed his specialty in which he associated himself with Dr. Thos. Turnbull. He made frequent trips to European and American clinics in order to keep in touch with the latest developments. Once he visited India in order to see Lt.-Col. Henry Smith, I.M.S., operate on cataract. When the war

**William Gardner, M.D.** We regret to announce the death September 20th, of Dr. William Gardner, late Professor of Gynæcology and Obstetrics in McGill University. Born in the county of Beaucharnois, he received his early education at Huntingdon Academy, going from there to McGill University where he graduated from the Faculty of Medicine as an honour student in 1866. After graduation he commenced general practice in the city. In 1870 he was offered and accepted the chair of Medical Jurisprudence in the School of Medicine in Montreal, just opening in connection with Bishop's University, Lennoxville, a position which he retained for five years when he accepted a similar position in McGill Faculty of Medicine. In 1883 he was appointed as Professor of Gynæcology at McGill, a position which he held until 1910. He was elected president of the Medico-Chirurgical Society of Montreal in 1888, a position which he occupied with distinction for some years. He was actively connected with the Art Association of Montreal for many years and

served as its president in 1903. He was also a past-president of the Alliance Francaise. In 1882 he married Miss Cantin, daughter of the late Augustin Cantin of Montreal, who died seven years ago.



WILLIAM GARDNER, M.D.

AN APPRECIATION BY W. W. CHIPMAN, B.A., M.D.,  
F.R.C.S. (EDIN.), PROFESSOR OF OBSTETRICS  
AND GYNÆCOLOGY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Dr. William Gardner died at his home in Montreal, on Monday morning, the 20th of September, 1926. His illness was but a short one, and at the age of eighty-one, he quietly passed from among us. It can truly be said of him that he died as he had lived, in the same cheerful, courageous, and unostentatious spirit.

His death marks almost the entire disappearance of his own medical age and generation; for of his contemporaries, on the medical staff of McGill University, there are very few who still survive. He belonged to a distinguished medical generation—a generation of men who were famous, not only in Montreal and in Canada, but who were recognized throughout the world. These men did much to elevate the tone of medical practice in this country, to improve the quality of service in our hospitals, and to add distinction to our medical schools. William Gardner was not the least among all these.

There are several pictures of the man that rise before us. First, the boy on a farm, in the county of Beauharnois, the eldest of a large family; the studious boy with the admonition of his grandmother in his ears, "Laddie, laddie, dinna read sae much. Ye'll jum'le yer judgment." And then, at McGill, shy and studious still, and compelled to wait a year for the medical degree on account of his youth! And, after graduation, a time of general practice in this city! A large practice it soon became, by reason of his ability, his industry, and his kindness. Dr. Gardner never ceased to be a student, and he soon heightened these activities of general practice. We see him next in an academic position, as a Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, first at Bishop's College, and afterward at McGill. In addition to this, he now began his surgical career in the Montreal General Hospital. He created there the Department of Gynæcology, and, whatever this specialty may have

achieved in Canada, is largely owing to his endeavour. Lawson Tait, of Birmingham, the greatest gynæcologist of that time, always spoke lovingly of William Gardner, as a post-graduate student. In 1885 Dr. Gardner was appointed the first Professor of Gynæcology in McGill University, and ten years later, he became Gynæcologist-in-Chief to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

The above represents very shortly the successive phases of his professional life; and they all bear witness to an untiring zeal, and a painstaking devotion to his work. These high qualities were the outstanding marks of his surgical career, and they afford an ample explanation of his signal success. He was beloved alike by his students and his colleagues, for through his strict and unswerving loyalty there radiated always the quaint and kindly humour of his Scottish inheritance.

Dr. Gardner was possessed of many interests outside of his profession. The French language always attracted him, and he became proficient in its use. He was widely travelled, was fond of books, and had a genuine love for pictures; his own private collection affording him the utmost pleasure and gratification. At one time he was President of the Art Association of Montreal, and for many years served on its council.

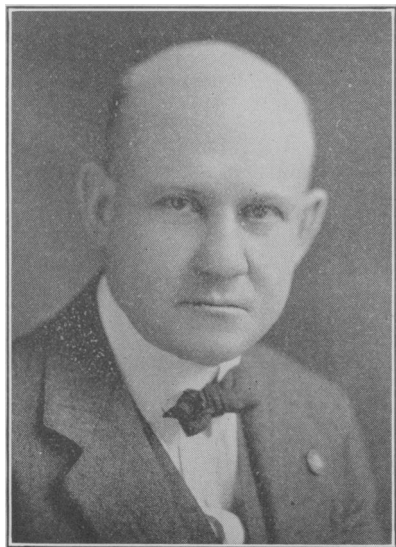
In 1882 he married Miss Cantin of this city, and to Mrs. Gardner was largely due the special charm of their home-life. Dr. Gardner's social gifts were enhanced by those of his wife, and the influence of this home will be long remembered in Montreal.

AN APPRECIATION BY F. J. SHEPHERD, M.D.,  
LL.D., F.R.C.S.

I first met Dr. Wm. Gardner at the Montreal General Hospital in 1875 on my return from Europe to assume the duties of Demonstrator of Anatomy in McGill University. He had that year been appointed Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, being transferred from Bishop's College where he had held a similar position. He was then a general practitioner having his office in the west end of St. Joseph St. as it was then. He was a very dapper young man, clean shaven with small side whiskers, scrupulously dressed in frock coat and tall silk hat, very neat and smart looking. We became friends at once and continued so until his death. The 80's have been called the "Golden Age" of the medical faculty of McGill, and he was one of the old guard which included Roddick, Ross, Osler, Buller and others. These men greatly enhanced the reputation of the McGill Medical Faculty, and made it known world wide. When first appointed gynæcologist to the Montreal General Hospital in 1883, he did no abdominal operations, and it was not until after the British Association held its meeting here in 1884 and where he met Mr. Lanson Tait, that he became an operating surgeon. Tait invited him to come over to Birmingham to act as his assistant for the winter of 1885; from there he returned a fully equipped abdominal surgeon. At this time gynæcologists mostly applied pessaries and scraped and cauterized the cervix uteri. Before his appointment as gynæcologist to the hospital and professor of gynæcology in the university, he had been acting as physician to the outdoor department of the hospital. Up to 1883, Buller had been the only specialist. Now in 1883, Gardner in gynæcology and George Major in diseases of the nose and throat were appointed. This was a great advance. Gardner had soon a large clinic and did much operating. He established a private hospital on Union Avenue, and from that time until his retirement he was a very busy man, and had a wide and solid reputation amongst the profession for being a very careful operator with excellent judgment.

He was exceptionally particular about the cleanliness of himself, the patient, the instruments and assistants; at that time not a common quality. His results were of the best and his opinion as to the advisability of operation was much valued by his colleagues. All who knew Dr. Gardner appreciated his kindly disposition, his charming manners, and his profound knowledge of many subjects. He was a well read man both in French and English, and had a fine sense for art. His collection of pictures and books was select, and of high quality. He was a most valuable member of the council of the Montreal Art Association, and by his gifts and counsel promoted the interests of art in Montreal. I have travelled all over Europe with him, and we have visited together every public picture gallery in Italy, Germany, France, Spain and Russia, and a more intelligent and appreciative travelling companion no one could wish. He had his little peculiarities, and was always very Scotch, never liking to give himself away by a definite yes or no. No one could wish a better or truer friend in all weathers. He will be greatly missed by his many friends and congenial companions. His loss will also be much felt by his old students, and the many men he has trained in gynaecological work, for he was an example to all of a skilful, upright, judicious, and cautious surgeon who never ran after new chimeras, but tested, weighed and deeply considered all methods before he put them into practice.

**Dr. William Charles Laidlaw**, Deputy Minister of Health, of the Province of Alberta, died on August 15th. By his death the Canadian public health suffers a great loss. Although he contributed comparatively little to medical literature, he was well known and highly regarded not only in the Province of Alberta, but throughout the Dominion. He was ever alive to all that was new in the public health field, and helped by his ardour and encouragement to stimulate the work of his associates.



DR. W. C. LAIDLAW

Dr. Laidlaw was born in Stayner, Ontario, fifty-two years ago. He was educated at Upper Canada College and the University of Toronto, from which he graduated in medicine in 1895. At Toronto he was prominent in student activities and played quarterback for the University of Toronto rugby team of his day. He was a member of the Zeta Psi fraternity. After graduation he spent a year with the Ontario government in the Institute for Mental Diseases at

Orillia and later went to Edinburgh for a year's post-graduate study.

He commenced practice in Edgar, Ontario, but this was interrupted by the call to arms for the South African war. He served through this campaign with great distinction and was awarded the distinguished conduct medal. After the war he returned to Canada and began practice at Carstairs, Alberta. He displayed considerable interest in public health work and in 1912 was appointed Medical Officer of Health, for the Province of Alberta.

In 1914 he again responded to the call of his country and left Canada as Medical Officer to the 4th Artillery Brigade. His talents were soon directed into his chosen field and he was given command of No. 1, sanitary section, later being promoted to the rank of major, and appointed advisor in sanitation to the Canadian corps.

After the armistice, Dr. Laidlaw returned to his former position in Alberta, and in 1921 was appointed Deputy Minister of Health; a ministry of health having been created in the meantime. He took a deep interest in university affairs and was Associate Professor of Public Health, and also a member of the Senate of the University of Alberta. He was elected President of the Canadian Public Health Association in 1923.

He was the most loyal of friends; always courteous, dignified and kindly in his judgment of others. He took a great human interest in everyone. He was punctual in his doings, always calm and collected and of excellent judgment. These qualities together with his power of expressing himself logically, and the moderation of his counsels made him a valued colleague and an unusually efficient Deputy Minister. His services were much sought for on committees of various sorts. He was a master of the art of pouring oil on troubled waters and most tactful.

By his death the state is the poorer. The profession and his friends are the better for having known him.

He had been suffering from myocarditis for a few months and died during his sleep in the early morning of August 15, 1926, at his residence in Edmonton; his wife and daughter survive him.

HAROLD ORR

**Dr. Charles Ernest Aikins**, of Guysboro, N.S., died on the 31st of August at the age of thirty-eight. Dr. Aikins graduated at McGill in 1919. Some years ago he was appointed medical health officer for the municipality of Guysboro and in this capacity proved to be a valuable official.

**Dr. James Christie**, who for nearly half a century, was a prominent and popular physician known to every resident of Saint John and who was associated in the founding of the General Public Hospital here, died at the Phillip's House, Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston on Friday, September 10, 1926, at the age of ninety-six. His medical training was obtained at a medical school in Philadelphia. Shortly after his graduation, he served as an army surgeon throughout the civil war. After its close he returned to New Brunswick and located in Saint John where his connection with the hospital was continuous, first as a surgeon and then as a commissioner. He was a past president of the New Brunswick Medical Society, and of the Saint John Medical Society and was a member of the Medical Council of New Brunswick. For the last six years he lived in Boston with his daughter. Word of his death was received with regret by his many friends in Saint John.

**Dr. Alphonsus Hilary Gannon**, a graduate of Queen's University, who had been practising for about ten years at New Waterford, N.S., died quite suddenly while visiting at North Sydney on the 23rd of August. Dr. Gannon had not been in the best of health for

some time, but such an early termination to a career which promised much usefulness was not anticipated.

**Dr. L. A. Lamarche**, Montreal, died at his home recently of acute indigestion. The deceased was in his fifty-fourth year. He was born of Canadian parents in Oakland, California, educated at L'Assomption College and Laval University, and practised his profession for some years at St. Henri de Mascouche. He had recently established himself in Montreal.

**John Thomson**, M. D., F.R.C.P., Edin. and Lond. LL.D., Consulting Physician to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh. The medical profession has sustained a great loss in the death of Dr. John Thomson at his home in Edinburgh. Born within a few yards of the house in which he spent the best years of his life, Dr. Thomson was essentially an Edinburgh man. He was educated at the Edinburgh Academy and passed from there to the University, where he graduated in 1881. He acted as resident under Fraser and Annandale in the Royal Infirmary and later served on the staff of the Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children in London. His early work on pyloric stenosis, his interest in rickets and his later studies on mentally defective children had important practical as well as scientific results. The various clinics and societies which now deal with these none too easy problems of childhood received

a fresh stimulus from the inspiration of his work. At a comparatively early age recognition of his merit came in his appointment to the staff of the Sick Children's Hospital and as university lecturer on the diseases of children. His *Guide to the Clinical Study and Treatment of Sick Children* is a masterly contribution to the literature of the subject and may be taken as an example of what a text-book for practitioners and students should be: clear, concise and scholarly. *Opening Doors* a little book, written "for mothers of babies who are long in learning to behave like other children of their age" is full of encouragement and hope. It is a sympathetic revelation of the insight of an understanding mind into the feeling of mothers of those unfortunates. Dr. Thomson's outstanding position as an authority received wide appreciation. The honorary degree of LL.D., was conferred upon him by his Alma Mater. The Royal College of Physicians, London elected him to its jealously guarded honorary fellowship. He was an honorary member of the Canadian Society for the Study of Diseases of Children and the American Paediatric Society. It may be said of John Thomson that he devoted his life to the children. His wonderful ability and gentleness of character brought peace and a sense of rest to many a tiny bedside. He passes from our side as quietly as he lived among us, leaving a remembrance of an upright, kindly personality; the memory of a great and good physician. G.G.

## News Items

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Fifteenth Annual Report of the Manitoba Sanitarium for the year ending December 31, 1925, has been sent to us and provides interesting details of its work. The chief difficulty encountered has been the familiar one of making two ends meet, but it has by no means been more than a difficulty, and we are glad to learn that legislation has been invoked for a temporary solution of the financial question.

On the whole the hospital has done an increased amount of work and has extended its achievements and influence, not only in the narrower sense of a hospital, but as a factor in medical and general health education in the province.

The September number of the Vancouver Medical Association Bulletin contains interesting notes on the Department of Anaesthesia in the Vancouver General Hospital, by Dr. D. D. Freeze, in charge of the department. Attention is called to the dangers attendant during the period of induction, and a salutary caution is given against the rapid administration. The anaesthetist should not allow himself to be hurried by anyone in any case.

Details are also given of a specimen of red snow brought in by Dr. F. C. Bell. This substance is only found at altitudes above 8,000 feet, the red colour being due to a small plant of the same group of algae as those that colour water green. The existence of this plant is an interesting example of the occurrence of life under conditions which to say the most are only just capable of supporting it.

We have received Bulletin No. 1 of the British Columbia Hospitals Association, being the proceedings of the 1925 convention held at Nanaimo in August, 1925. This bulletin is concerned with the question of equipping a small hospital laboratory, and useful details are given by Drs. Hill and Coleman with regard to the essentials necessary for such equipment. The

information contained in this bulletin would be of considerable value to anyone desirous of obtaining the essentials of laboratory equipment in a small hospital.

We are in receipt of the League of Nations Publication No. 10, being the third annual report on the prevalence of infectious diseases throughout the world. This report is somewhat wider in scope than that of the two previous reports, as it contains, in addition to data for all diseases which are notifiable in each country, for 1925 and preceding years, statistics of births, deaths, infant mortality and deaths from selected causes in large towns. The number of administrations which regularly furnish reports of all notifiable infectious diseases in their respective countries has increased since the last report, and the information now published relates to 69 per cent of the world's population (Europe 99 per cent; Australasia 88 per cent; Africa 82 per cent; America 75 per cent, Asia 53 per cent.)

The Bureau is also responsible for monthly epidemiological reports which contain current information regarding the prevalence of thirteen of the most important epidemic diseases. In order to provide a permanent record for future study of the prevalence and movements of epidemic diseases throughout the world, these data, which in some instances of necessity are provisional, are once a year sent for correction to various countries. The Bureau also receives weekly telegraphic information regarding the prevalence of plague, cholera, and smallpox and other unusual epidemic disease in 110 ports of Asia, Australasia and the East Coast of Africa. This information is broadcast in code throughout these areas each week and is cabled to Geneva, where it is incorporated in a Weekly Epidemiological Report which is sent by mail to all European and North African health administrations.